

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-9 (Canceled).

Claim 10 (New) A continuous blood filtration apparatus for separating plasma or serum from whole blood, the apparatus comprising:

blood filter units, each comprising a suction nozzle, a filter chamber communicating with the suction nozzle and having a volume of 0.5 to 2.5 ml, a suction port communicating with the filter chamber and a glass fiber filter in the filter chamber;

blood collecting tubes for containing whole blood and having an opening for receiving and holding a blood filter unit placed through the opening such that the opening of the suction nozzle is below a surface of whole blood contained in the collecting tubes;

a manifold connected to a suction line, the manifold having a plurality of branches, each branch having a valve and a connector for connecting an end of each branch to a suction port of a blood filter unit;

means for continuously placing a blood filter unit in a vertical position in a blood collecting tube,

a conveyor for conveying blood collecting tubes containing a blood filter unit to a connector such that the suction port of the blood filter unit is facing the connector; and

means for moving the suction port of the blood filter unit into contact with the connector such that when a vacuum is applied through the manifold, blood is drawn from the

blood collecting tubes into the blood filter unit and filter chamber and through the glass fiber filter and for moving the suction port of the blood filter unit out of contact with the connector after a predetermined amount of blood has been filtered from the collecting tubes.

Claim 11 (New): The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the manifold has linear form, and is fixed or moved vertically.

Claim 12 (New): The apparatus of Claims 10, wherein the manifold has a ring form, and is rotated.

Claim 13 (New): The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the connector is movable in the vertical direction.

Claim 14 (New): The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein each blood collecting tube is held by a rack.

Claim 15 (New): The apparatus of Claim 10, further comprising a grasp means for elevating each blood collecting tube to connect each blood filter unit to the connector.

Claim 16 (New): The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein each blood filter unit filters blood in an upward direction.

Claim 17 (New): The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein each blood filter unit further comprises a filtrate receiver placed above and communicating with the filter chamber.

Claim 18 (New): The apparatus of Claim 10, wherein the connector includes a flexible or elastic material where it contacts the suction port in order to ensure an airtight connection.